

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1 to 7 will be pending in the present patent application. Claims 2 and 7 have been amended.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Discussion of the Claim Objections

Claim 2 has been objected to as allegedly being in improper dependent form and for allegedly being a "substantial duplicate()" of claim 1 (Action at 2). Although Applicants respectfully traverse these objections, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments have rendered the objections moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Discussion of the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential steps. Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments have rendered the rejection moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Miscellaneous

Applicants would like to express their appreciation to the Examiner for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 3, 4, and 6. Applicants believe that they have made a valuable contribution to the art and the Examiner's recognition of the same is appreciated.

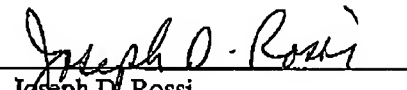
Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Action mailed on September 22, 2004, and the allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (908) 231-3410.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee required and any additional fees that may be needed to Deposit Account No. 18-1982 in the name of Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 13, 2004


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